



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Memorandum

To: Traffic Control Process Committee Members

From: Mark Wissinger, PE
Construction Engineer

Date: December 4, 2003

Subject: Work Zone Sign Mounting Heights

At one of our meetings held earlier this year we agreed to adjust the mounting height for post-mounted work zone signs from 7 feet to 5 feet. Committee members agreed to the change to reduce the potential of wind damage to the sign installations.

We recently became aware of a conflict with our Detailed Drawing sign mounting heights and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). MUTCD Part 2, section 2A.18 requires "all route signs, warning signs, and regulatory signs on expressways and freeways shall be at least 2.1 m (7 ft) above the level of the pavement edge".

This requires that all regulatory signs in a work zone sign series be mounted at 7 feet. Orange work zone signs could be mounted at 5 feet.

Permitting two mounting heights in a sign series would constitute a non-uniform condition when uniformity is one of the main goals of traffic control and the MUTCD.

It could also lead to problems for traffic control contractors during sign layout.

For these reasons the department will revise its Detailed Drawing to show a 7 foot mounting height for work zone signs for Interstate work. The change will affect contracts beginning with the January letting.

This will not affect the 5 foot mounting height for non-interstate work zone signing.

MW/MLB/mlb

Cc: Joel Marshik, P.E.
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District Construction Engineers
Construction Engineering Services Bureau